

Becoming educated goes behind the classroom, it isn’t all about book smarts. This bracelet represents the cycle of my life, my journey to become educated and later become an educator will hopefully take full circle. The full circle will be someone, hopefully one of my students; following in my footsteps and they will graduate from high school and move onto become a teacher. The bracelet is left open symbolizing that my journey is not yet completed. The linked chain represents the linkage of my artifacts that all make up my journey to being educated.

I remember walking out of the auditorium after my graduation and having the feeling of shock. Did I really just graduate from high school, I thought to myself…what’s left to do with my life now? I always had the dream of attending college and becoming a teacher to educate elementary school children but I was in shock that this time in my life arrived. I met up with my family and we walked to the car to head out to a restaurant as an after graduation celebration. All I remember from the car ride is hearing “we’re so proud of you,” “a new chapter of your life is starting,” I started feeling sick and wasn’t liking the sound of this. As I sat in the back seat of the car looking at the window and wondering where my life would go from here I saw my mom digging through her bag out of the corner of my eye. She pulled out this little square box and handed it to me, I opened it and inside was a charm for a bracelet she had previously bought me, a charm of a graduation cap. She told me as I move onto college I will learn to become a teacher so I can educate others compared to just sitting in a class being taught by textbooks. This seemed like it would be a big jump for me, going from being a student to learning to become the teacher. This is one moment I don’t think I will forget, it officially became clear to me at this point that I was starting a new chapter of my life, I would enter a completely different kind of school where I’m not only taught book smarts through teachers but also taught street smarts by living on my own. I knew more hands on education experiences were in my future to further prepare me in becoming a teacher.

Present:

The artifact for me that captures my current situation is my binder with my major information. I remember walking into my university seminar class freshman year and hearing my professor talk about the packet we needed to complete before being entered into the education program. So many ideas ran threw my head and papers about this were scattered all over my room. I went to the bookstore and bought a Bloomsburg University binder to hold my education packet and all of my major related work. This binder has been growing since freshman year and getting fatter and fatter as I move steps closer to entering the major and completing my packet. I believe this binder will remain with me for the rest of my life because I have put so much stuff inside that I can use when I enter my own classroom.

Future:

A moment I image for the future is the first day of class when I finally have my own classroom. I hope to have a first (or kindergarten and first) grade self contained classroom, which contains a smaller amount of students with various disabilities. I imagine setting up my classroom with bright colors and bold printed schedules and communication boards around the room for my students to use. I see myself standing in the doorway waiting for the arrival of my students with the big smiles on their face that a new school year with a new teacher is starting. I will start the morning with circle time where we can get to know each other and explore what will be learned throughout the year. Free time where I can observe as the kids get a chance to interact with each other will give me a further understanding of each child, and pack up where I see my students get ready to walk out of the room and hope they come back the next day with the same big smiles on their faces cause after teaching them I know I will have that smile on. I recall from my observations of a self contained class of how happy I got when I helped the students because they got so happy when they got their work done that it was so rewarding for me to see this out of students.